(SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (d) A Statment is attached (See Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 56].

(e) Yes, Sir, five mills which closed before the introduction of the new Textile Policy, have since reopened.

Vacancies of Judges of Supreme Court

1092. SHRI V. GOPALASAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies of Judges are there in the Supreme Court of India as on date;

(b) how many vacancies Government have filled up recently and what was the total vacancies at that time;

(c) how many cases are pending in the Supreme Court and how many of them are three, five and ten years old disputes, Categorywise; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to dispose of the long-pending cases and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) On 13-12-1988, 5 out of 11 vacancies were filled As on today, thede are 6 vacancies:

(c) The requisite information is being collected from the Registry of the Supreme Court of India and will be laid on the Table of the House after it has been received.

(d) A Statement of the steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases in the Supreme Court is enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken from time to time to deduce rendency in Supreme Court.

1. The Judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 18 to 26 (including the Chief Justice) with effect, from 9th May, 1986 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

2. The following steps are being taken in the Supreme Court for speady disposal of pending cases:

(a) Matters involving common question of law are grouped together and listed in groups so that they can all be disposed of together.

(b) In most of the matters printing of the appeal record is dispensed with which saves a lot of time and expense of the litigants. In criminal appeals counsel for the appellant is required to file cyclostyled record to save time which would otherwise be taken in getting the record printed so that the matter could be heard early.

(c) To save the Court's time Hon. the Chief Justice is taking mentioning, which takes about one hour on each day, after the Court hours.

(d) Supreme Court Rules have been amended empowering Hon. Judge in Chambers and the Registrar to dispose of certain types of matters which were previously being listed in the Court. This has been done to save the Court's time.

(e) Specialised benches are constituted by Hon. the Chief Justice and particular types of matters are assigned to such specialised benches for quick disposal.

(f) Computer technology is soon going to be introduced in the Supre-

me Court which is expected to help reduce the backlog of cases considerably.

(g) Rceently Hon. the Chief Justice has directed that the counsel in each matter should file written arguments, if the arguments are to take more than five hours on each side. The oral arguments on each side are not restricted to five hours unless the Court feels that more time is to be given to the counsel in which case a maximum of ten hours are given for oral arguments by consel of each side. The length of oral arguments by counsel of both the sides has thus been curtailed with a view to securing quick disposal of matters.

(h) A court Administrator-cum-Registrar General, who is a senior judical officer, has been appointed so that in conjunction with the present two Registrars there can be a reorganisation of the working of the Registry and improving its techniques and efficiency.

Vacancies of Judges in Delhi High Court

1083. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies of Judges are there in the High Court of Delhi as on date;

(b) what is their present strength;

(c) how many vacancies have been filled in during the last three years, yearwise;

(d) how many cases are pending in the Court, categorywise and how many of them are three, five and ten years old; and

(e) what steps are being taken to dispose of the long pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) As on 28-2-1989, the sanctioned strength of the Delhi High Court was 25 permanent Judges and 2 Additional Judges, and 22 Judges were in position, leaving 3 vacancies of permanent Judges and 2 vacancies of Additional Judges.

(c) In the Delhi High Court, 6 Judges were appointed in 1986, 1 Judge in 1987 and 2 Judges in 1988.

(d) As per information received, as on 30.6.1988, a total number of 82712 cases (Civil....78545 and Criminal....4167) was pending in the Delhi High Court. The number of cases pending for over 3, 5 and 10 years is given below:

	Civil	Criminal	Total
Over 3 Years	36935	1863	38798
Over 5 Years	22490	1197	23687
Over 10 Years	5316	53	5369